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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 1 - 10 JANUARY 1953

/Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet newspapers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in eight union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: crops, cotton varieties, mechanization, fertilization, land improvement, rural electrification, agricultural education, and ministerial organization.

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USSR

In 1951, the gross raw-cotton harvest in the USSR was 46 percent greater than the prewar level. The area devoted to cotton is now one third greater than in 1949. There has been a significant expansion in the cotton-growing areas and in cotton yields of the old cotton-growing regions of the Central Asian republics and the Transcaucasus.(1)

Mechanized excavating stations of the Ministry of Cotton Growing USSR exceeded the 1952 plan for earth-moving work by 512,000 cubic meters.(2)

Ukrainian SSR

An article by S. Podozerskiy, Candidate of Agricultural Sciences, chief of the Cotton-Growing Selection and Seed Growing Division, UkrNIKhI, (Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Cotton Growing) entitled "The Prospects of Developing Selection and Seed Culture in the New Regions," contained the following information:

As a result of conditions in Ukrainian cotton growing, the Selection Division of UkrNIKhI has set itself the task of developing earlier maturing and more productive varieties of cotton than the local varieties grown at present and at the

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same time improving other economically valuable qualities of cotton. As a result, varieties 3521, 3932, and 3988 were developed. They are now being tested on state experimental plots and propagated on seed-growing farms.

Variety 3521 proved itself in the Kherson vicinity to mature 4-5 days earlier than variety 611-B; in northern cotton-growing areas of the Ukraine, according to 1950 experimental data, it ripens 9 days earlier. Variety 3521 took first place during 1951 - 1952 on state variety-developing plots in earliness of maturation and outdistanced variety 611-B by 4-7 days. It is characterized by an intense rate of ripening, and by a higher first-picking harvest than other varieties. In certain northern regions, under average weather conditions, it yields 10 to 12 percent more than 611-B before frost occurs. The Central Scientific Research Cotton Institute estimates that the fiber of variety 3521 has the best qualities of all varieties of the early-maturing group; its length, 29-30 millimeters, is nearly that of 611-B; yarn No 54 made from it is 5 to 10 percent stronger. Based on the foregoing evaluations, variety 3521 offers the best prospects for cotton sowing in the northern regions of the Ukraine.

In maturation, varieties 3982 and 3988 fall short of 3521 but exceed variety 611-B by 3 or 4 days.

Data of the UkrNIKhI, obtained in experimenting with different varieties for several years, reveals that the above-named two varieties give a harvest of pre-frost cotton in the Kherson vicinity which is 10 to 15 percent greater than that of variety 611-B and is not inferior to it in gross harvest. The boll is 4.2 to 4.3 grams heavier when grown on unirrigated land and about 5 grams heavier when grown on irrigated land.

The fiber yield of variety 3982 equals 39 to 40 percent, which is 5 or 6 percent higher than that of 611-B and gives it an advantage over other varieties. Thus, according to state experiments during 1951, fiber harvest of variety 3982 was generally 10 to 12 percent greater than that of variety 611-B, and in 1952, judging from preliminary data, the difference in fiber harvest will be still greater. In addition, the new variety is distinguished by the rare combination of having a higher fiber yield and of being gymnospermous.

For comparing different varieties, their productivity during 1952 on the fields of the UkrNIKhI is highly significant. Despite exceptionally unfavorable weather conditions and necessary resowing of plots on 29 May, these varieties sown on unirrigated land and cultivated with ordinary agrotechnical methods gave the following harvest of raw cotton (in quintals per hectare):

Variety	Pre-Frost Harvest	Gross Harvest
3982	7.9	11.6
3988	7.7	10.8
3521	5.9	7.9

Without doubt, varieties 3982 and 3988 are adaptable for sowing in the northern and central regions of the Ukraine.

Variety 3980 is drawing greater attention than any of the other newer varieties of cotton developed by the UkrNIKhI. It is equal or superior to variety 3521 in earliness of maturation, has a greater fiber yield, a heavier boll (4.1 grams), and longer fiber (30 to 32 millimeters).

For hybridization and for practical application in cotton-sowing areas of the extreme north, the new variety 6095 is of great interest. It matures one or 2 days earlier than 3521 and 6 to 8 days earlier than variety 611-B. In the variety-developing experiments of the UkrNIKhI, it consistently shows the earliest rate of ripening and the highest harvest of pre-frost raw cotton, as well as good gross productivity. A wider utilization of this variety is precluded by its short fiber (26-27 millimeters) and its small bolls.

Varieties OD-3 and OD-6 of the All-Union Selection and Genetic Institute imeni T.D. Lysenko approach varieties of the UkrNIKhI in earliness of maturation and yield, as do varieties D-18 and D-153 of the Dagestanskaya Experimental Station. They are also prospects for sowing in the northern and partly in the central cotton-growing regions of the Ukraine. Variety S-3381 of the Central Selection Station of the All-Union NIKhI deserves a great deal of attention. It is not inferior to variety 611-B in earliness of maturation, yield, and weight of boll; its fiber is of satisfactory quality and it is distinguished by its higher resistance to gummosis and blight.(3)

Moldavian SSR

Entrance examinations were begun on 6 January for the Correspondence Department of the Kishinev Agricultural Institute imeni Frunze. More than 220 agricultural workers have applied, most of whom are kolkhoz chairmen and agrotechnicians, and MTS engineers.(4)

Azerbaydzhan SSR

MTS of Azerbaydzhan SSR have fulfilled their 1952 plan for tractor work. In terms of soft plowing, they accomplished 266,000 hectares more than in 1951. They fulfilled and even exceeded the plans for the main types of work. The fourth-quarter 1952 plan for tractor repair was also fulfilled.(4)

RSFSR

A letter written to the editor of Izvestiya by M. Bulatov, Deputy, Kirovskaya Oblast Soviet of Workers' Deputies, and published under the title "Eliminate Superfluous Organizations in the Procurement Apparatus," contained the following information and suggestions:

In his report to the 19th Party Congress, G.M. Malenkov spoke about the large number of procurement and marketing organizations engaged in the procurement and marketing of the very same products and raw materials; he also stated that the state was suffering heavy losses due to the lack of necessary order and economical operation in procurement, storage, and marketing.

Procurement organizations therefore face the important task of reducing the size of the apparatus and improving their operations. Some measures have already been taken to accomplish this task. In 1952, the Kirovskaya Oblast Office of Glavzagotsortzerno (Main Administration for Procurement of Graded Seed of Grains, Grasses, and Oleaginous Crops) was eliminated; Zagotlen (All-Union Combine for Procurement of Flax) and L'notrest (Flax Trust) were combined; and the oblast organization for procurement of hay was abolished.

However, these measures should not be the last to be taken; there are still many unnecessary organizations in the system of the Ministry of Agricultural Procurement USSR; their elimination would be in the interest of improved operations.

There exist, for example, oblast BOAMV offices (oblastnyye kontory po bor'be s ambarnymi vreditelyami i gryzunami, oblast offices for combating storehouse insects and rodents). Their specific mission is to keep agricultural products stored

in elevators and granaries free from insects. Such organizations are superfluous, since storehouses should have been well prepared before grain or other products were placed into them. This preparation work can and must be performed by Zagotzerno (All-Union Combine for Grain Procurement) itself.

Procurement of hops is carried out in the oblast by the Kirovskaya Oblast Office of Rosglavkhmel' (Main Administration of Hops) of the Ministry of Food Industry RSFSR; the oblast office uses 20 workers for the procurement of hops in Malmyzhskiy and Rozhkinskiy, the two rayons where hops are grown. The area devoted to hops is small, and the writer is of the opinion that the office can be eliminated and procurement of these hops turned over to the consumers' cooperative.

The Kirovskaya Oblast offices of Zagotzhivsyr'ye (All-Union Combine for Procurement of Animal Fats) and Zagotzerno have organized two timber managements in Kirovskaya Oblast; these timber managements procure timber for the use of Glavzagotzhivsyr'ye (Main Administration for Procurement of Animal Fats) and Glavzagotzerno. These timber managements are unmechanized and very uneconomical: in 1952, that of the oblast office of Zagotzhivsyr'ye procured only a few hundred cubic meters of timber; considering the fact that the timber management had 80 workers, the cost of each cubic meter of timber came to 200 rubles. It is clear that the continued existence of these timber managements is economically unjustified.

Myasopromtrest (Meat Industry Trust) of the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry RSFSR, together with a large oblast office of Zagotskot (All-Union Combine for Procurement of Livestock), operates in Kirovskaya Oblast; the trust performs functions parallel with those of the oblast office of Zagotskot. The trust supervises a single meat combine and several slaughtering points. It should be eliminated and its functions transferred to the oblast office of Zagotskot.

Elimination of superfluous organizations in the procurement and marketing system will result in great savings to the state and promote improved procurement and marketing of products.(5)

The cotton growers of Kirovskaya Oblast exceeded the 1952 plan for delivery of flax fiber to the state by a considerable margin. Deliveries above plan are continuing.(6)

Kolkhozes of Kalininskaya Oblast have fulfilled the 1952 plan for delivery of retted flax to the state 101 percent. Several million pud were delivered in only a few weeks to procurement points. The flax is of a high quality in all regions. About 400 kolkhozes are continuing deliveries above plan.(7)

Kolkhoz workers of Udmurtskaya ASSR fulfilled their 1952 plan for delivery of flax fiber to the state on 22 December; on this date, they had fulfilled the plan for delivery of flax seed 125 percent. In 1952, the flax harvest in kolkhozes began on 1 - 3 August and ended on 20 August. Threshing of flax continued on kolkhozes for 10 to 20 days and was completed by 15 September.

Flax factories and procurement points received from kolkhozes retted flax and fiber of high count. All measures were taken to achieve good agrotechnical practice in flax cultivation. A great deal of consideration was given to the distribution of flax in the crop rotation system. More than 45 percent of the flax was sown on land previously occupied by perennial grasses, on long-fallowed land, and on virgin soil. One fifth of the area sown to flax was sown by the wide-row method, preceded by the application of mineral fertilizers; 30 percent of the areas sown received supplemental fertilization. Sowing was carried out in the time period prescribed by the best agrotechnical practices.(8)

Sovkhozes of the Northern Caucasus Administration of Sovkhozes improved their application of advanced agrotechniques in 1952. For the administration as a whole, the 1952 plan for application of granulated fertilizers was fulfilled 150 percent, that for sowing of crops 103.7 percent, that for supplemental fertilization of winter crops with local and mineral fertilizers 119.2 percent, and of spring crops 213.6 percent.

Preliminary data show that sovkhozes of the Northern Caucasus Administration of Sovkhozes fulfilled the 1952 plan for delivery of grain to the state 110.8 percent.

Striving for a high yield in 1953, sovkhozes of the administration completed plowing of clean summer fallow in April 1952 and maintained the fallow area in clean and cultivated condition. The plan for sowing of winter crops was fulfilled 101.5 percent. Granulated mineral fertilizers were applied to 44 percent of the area sown to winter crops. Plowing of winter fallow was completed and 50,000 hectares of summer fallow were plowed. The 1952 plan for tractor work was fulfilled 100.3 percent.(9)

MTS of Udmurtskaya ASSR have 300 flax planters and over 600 flax pullers and combines.(8)

Recently, the Nezlobnenskaya Rural Hydroelectric Power Station went into operation. This was the seventh rural station to be built on the Podkumok River in Stavropol'skiy Kray. In 1952, 107 kolkhozes in the kray were electrified.

Recently, a hydroelectric power station on the Cheptsa River in Debesskiy Rayon, Udmurtskaya ASSR, also went into operation. At present, more than 300 kolkhoz hydroelectric power stations are in operation and 380 kolkhozes have been electrified in the ASSR. In 1940, there were only five kolkhoz electric power stations in the republic.(6)

In Sverdlovskaya Oblast, there are 134 rural hydroelectric power stations, 516 rural steam electric power stations operating on local fuel, 675 transformer substations, and more than 8,000 kilometers of rural electric power lines. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, rural electrification is to be expanded considerably in the Urals. Construction of five new hydroelectric power stations is approaching completion.(5)

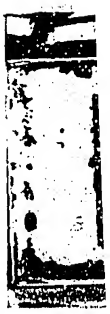
At the end of 1952, construction of an interkolkhoz hydroelectric power station was begun on the Krasivaya Mecha River in Lebedyanskiy Rayon of Ryazanskaya Oblast. Seven kolkhozes are taking part in its construction.(10)

The Mirslavskaya State Rural GES has gone into operation with a capacity of 470 kilowatts. This is the first of a series of GES to be located on the Nerl' River. Electric power was made available to 70 settlements of An'kovskiy Rayon; this rayon has now followed Ivanovskiy and Komsomol'skiy rayons in being completely electrified. Scores of motors were installed for the mechanization of labor-consuming processes in animal husbandry and on kolkhoz threshing floors. There are now 40 rural electric power stations in operation in Ivanovskaya Oblast; six of them were put into operation in 1952.(4)

Kazakh SSR

The Ministry of Agriculture Kazakh SSR is organizing 20 new MTS and MZhS (mechanized animal husbandry stations).

In 1952, such stations performed more than 27 million hectares of tractor work (in terms of soft plowing) in kolkhozes of the republic. In 1953, the volume of tractor work is being increased by almost one third.(4)



Kolkhoz workers of Kzyl-tu 3 Kolkhoz in Iliyskiy Rayon have put into operation an electric power station, constructed on the Sychevskiy Irrigation Canal.

In 1953, large hydroelectric stations are being put into operation in the villages and settlements of the oblast. Already in full operation are the following: Charynskaya Interkolkhoz GES in Uygurskiy Rayon, with a capacity of 440 kilowatts; the Lavarskaya GES in Chilikskiy Rayon; the second part of the Vtoraya Kamenskaya GES in Alma-Atinskiy Rayon; and a number of others.(11)

Uzbek SSR

Test operation has been made of the interkolkhoz hydroelectric station in Peshkoran village, Chartakskiy Rayon, Namanganskaya Oblast.

Electrification of kolkhoz villages in Namanganskaya Oblast is expanding. Two powerful hydroelectric stations and five stations of average capacity are almost ready to be put into operation. The construction of two interkolkhoz hydroelectric stations will begin in 1953. They will serve 25 kolkhozes of Uychinskiy and Namanganskiy rayons.(2)

Turkmen SSR

From 1949 to 1951, the area in the republic sown to cotton increased by 31 percent and cotton yield increased by 28 percent.(1)

Tadzhik SSR

In 1952, the cotton growers of the republic delivered to the state 60,000 more metric tons of cotton than in 1951. Many kolkhozes harvested 35-40 and more quintals of cotton per hectare.(10)

1. Sovetskoye Khlopkovodstvo, 1 Jan 53
2. Ibid., 7 Jan 53
3. Ibid., 10 Jan 53
4. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 8 Jan 53
5. Izvestiya, 6 Jan 53
6. Ibid., 9 Jan 53
7. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 1 Jan 53
8. Ibid., 7 Jan 53
9. Sovkhoznava Gazeta, 3 Jan 53
10. Pravda, 2 Jan 53
11. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 9 Jan 53

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